The Lions' Pride

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Pros and Cons of Student Bank Accounts

By Erin Gaylord
Online Editor

Student bank accounts typically come with a lot of benefits. According to what type of account it is and how it is used, can be beneficial or troublesome. Debit cards can be beneficial because they teach students how to save and manage money. Credit cards however, can cause students to think they have money that is not there, and if they are used improperly, it can be detrimental to their credit rating and make it hard to finance in the future.

Debit cards can be very beneficial for students, and they are safer than credit cards.

"I think they were designed with a very specific purpose in mind, and I don't see anything wrong with them," said Barbara Caldwell, department chair of Accounting, Finance, and Economics. She went on to say, "I think it serves a very good purpose in that it gets students involved with how checking accounts [and] savings accounts work."

The risk with checking and savings accounts are minimal. If there's no money in the account, the card will be declined. There will be overdraft fees, but there isn't much of a risk of debt if you can't use the card.

"How often do you check what your account balance is before you go off and buy a movie ticket or whatever it is that you're going to go do? That is what becomes critical," said Caldwell.

"What students need is something that is simple, and a place they feel that their money is safe," said Caldwell. "I do think that the student accounts that banks set up are a good option because the majority of students wouldn't qualify to have a regular checking account or regular savings account."

Opening a student checking or savings account can be beneficial, but student credit cards can be a bit more difficult. A lot of the time when students sign up for credit card accounts for the benefits, they only look at the positive aspects of it, but if the accounts are not used correctly, they can cause a lot of damage to someone's credit rating, making it difficult for them to finance things in the future.

"Credit cards are very dangerous," said Caldwell. The consumer can keep charging, and if the amount is not paid off in time, interest will be applied. If this continues each month, it is easy to slip into debt and decrease someone's credit score. It takes a lot of time, and is difficult, to reverse this debt and increase the credit score.

"Credit card debt is very large in the United States," said Caldwell.

In 2014, credit card debt caused a 57.1 billion net increase according to CardHub, a website used for comparing and reviewing credit cards.

Photo From Twitter @ACCC_helps

Credit cards can be useful for emergencies, but if used improperly, can cause low credit scores and credit card debt.

Student credit card debt in 2013 was on average $499 according to creditcards.com. Also according to creditcards.com, the average U.S resident adult credit card debt balance is $3600.

One cause of credit card debt is misunderstanding of what truly comes with a credit card.

"A lot of people don't truly understand what it means when your credit card has a 26% annual percentage rate associated with it," said Caldwell.

Along with the annual percentage rate (APR), there are usually other fees to watch out for. Some of these are: annual fees, over-the-limit fees, cash advance fees, foreign transaction fees, set-up fees, late fees, etc., according to About Money, a branch off About.com that provides advice and information about finances.

"You have to be an informed consumer," said Caldwell. When planning to open a credit card account, someone should read the fine print on the application, and decide if they are willing to take the risks with the benefits. If the card will be handled well is, "very dependent on the individual and what they've been taught," Caldwell said.

Photo From Twitter @BostonBBB

Students can be lured into student bank accounts and credit cards by all of the benefits that surround them, but student should read the fine print and look for a bank account that is safe and reliable.

Photo From Twitter @BostonBBB

Credit card debt is a big problem in the United States. It is hard to reverse and increase low credit scores.

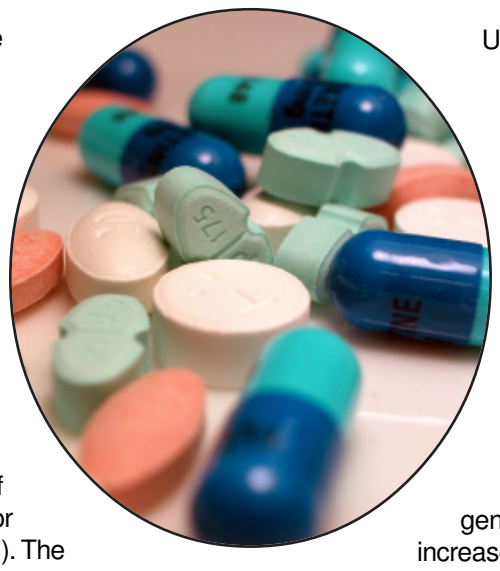
Editorials

These Prices Need To Take A Chill Pill

By Rebecca Maldonado
Contributing Writer

Imagine being one of the most despised people in the United States. Martin Shkreli, 32-year-old CEO of Turing pharmaceuticals, is one of those men. Shkreli has been accused of price gouging by raising the price of Daraprim, which is used in battling toxoplasmosis which can have severe effects on those with HIV/AIDS, from 13.50 dollars a pill to 750 dollars a pill.

According to the Center for Disease Control, some of the symptoms of the toxoplasma infection include fever, confusion, headache, seizures, nausea, and poor coordination. The parasite remains dormant in most of the population and its symptoms then resemble that of the flu (Center for Disease Control). The symptoms last for a few weeks to a few months before eventually disappearing. However, for those with strong immune systems, this is no real threat.



Turing pharmaceuticals helps patients by developing and commercializing its products for its patients. The company had developed Daraprim, a drug which helps in the prevention of parasitic reproduction in the body. Daraprim more specifically targets toxoplasmosis which is caused by the T. gondii parasite. Patients living with HIV/AIDS have weakened immune systems and are much more susceptible to the more severe side effects of the disease (Center for Disease Control). Recently, however, Shkreli has increased the price tremendously, making them virtually unattainable to the public.

Shkreli has been accused of price gouging by many, including political heavy hitters such as Hilary Clinton. Because of the influx in cost, many have become outraged as they are unable to receive the medication necessary to keep them healthy. However, there is some hope.

Imprimis pharmaceuticals has made available a much lower-cost alternative to Daraprim. The alternative, which costs around one dollar, is a customized formulation of the drug, yet it still attempts to treat toxoplasmosis.

According to USA Today "the Imprimis oral capsules – which are customized formulations of its pyrimethamine and leucovorin treatments – will be offered started at $99 for a 100 – count bottle".

"Recent generic price increase have made us concerned and cause to take positive action to address and opportunity to help a needy population" stated CEO of Imprimis pharmaceuticals, Mark Baum.

"While we respect Turing's right to charge patients and insurance companies whatever it believes appropriate, there may be more cost-effective compounded options for medications, such as Daraprim, for patients, physicians, insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers to consider," said Baum.

While the Imprimis alternative drug has not been officially approved by the FDA, it may still be prescribed by doctors as medication when they deem it to be the appropriate means of medication.

Photo (Above) From Wikimedia Commons

Saint Leo University Suffers Loss

Fred A. Sams, an adjunct faculty member, and teacher in the Master of Science in criminal justice program at Saint Leo University, passed away on Nov. 19.

Sams, an alumnus, had earned his associate and Bachelor of Arts degrees in criminal justice from Saint Leo University; he also earned a juris doctorate from Western State University. Once a member of the FBI, Sams began his career in law and criminal justice in 1967. He was a member of the U.S. Army in Special Forces, Criminal Intelligence, and S-2 Intelligence.

Please keep the family, students, colleagues, and friends of Fred A. Sams in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Check us out online at www.pride-online.net

Hoverboards

Picture From Twitter @HendoHover

What were once figments of people's imaginations for the future, hoverboards are slowly starting to be made for mass consumption. These hoverboards work by manipulating magnetic fields that were originally meant to protect buildings from natural disasters. Despite the innovation of hoverboards, it will cost too much to modify existing buildings to accommodate hoverboards.

Fraud Protection

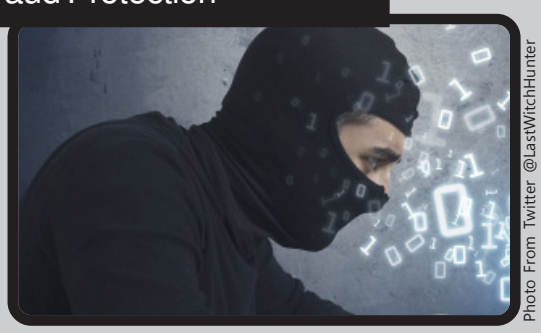


Photo From Twitter @LastWitchHunter

Are people safe online from identity theft or fraud? With the prevalence of these crimes on the internet, many people might be at risk of being victimized. People online can protect themselves by not linking important information to their social media .

Call of Duty Review

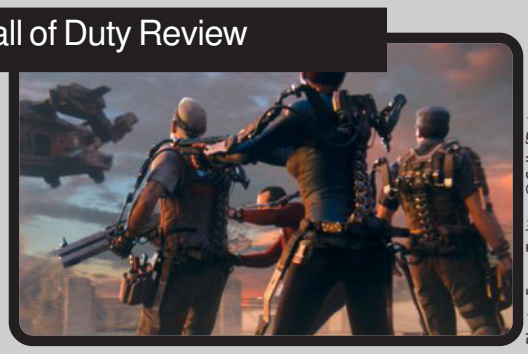


Photo From Twitter @CallofDuty

"Call of Duty Black Ops III" is one of the most popular games this holiday season. Check out "The Lions' Pride's" review to see if this game is worth giving to a gamer this season.

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Letters To The Editor

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- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year; Faculty: Include name and rank
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All employees of The Lions' Pride Newspaper will be obligated to learn, understand, and follow our mission and ethical requirments. It is the mission of every media service to inform people with purposeful and timely information which can enhance the lives of the community who read the newspaper. The Lions' Pride accepts this mission as theirs, and will be ethical according to the policy set here, and moral standards set by common sense and sound judgment of an individual since no policy can pertain to every situation. Please see pride-online.net for our full policy and details.

Letters to the Editor

Student Thoughts on Paris

Dear Editor,

In light of the recent news of different terrorist attacks taking place as well as hatred and anger tearing our countries apart, I believe that Saint Leo should be offering more of a helping hand towards society. Saint Leo should take this opportunity to become more involved in our worldly issues and government debates, as well as creating peace of mind amongst the students on campus who are experiencing any forms of negativity from these global issues.

At Saint Leo we have 6 core values: Responsible Stewardship, Respect, Personal Development, Excellence, Community, and Integrity. In order to practice what we preach I feel Saint Leo should take responsible stewardship in our place in society and its effect on the government. In my opinion Saint Leo can start having more of an input on what's going on starting with missions' trips to help the damaged countries and donations to help restoration take place. Saint Leo's funding could help rebuild the countries communities that have been torn apart. As well as just sending support funds we could send students and faculty to these areas to provide a more physical contribution in the rebuilding. At Saint Leo we send students on numerous study abroad trips for research purposes and helping foreign countries whereas we could be using those same resources to help the countries that have been under attack. Being that missions' trips and donations can be quite costly, we can take a more cost efficient approach by having our students and factuality write congress about these issues and our views and perspectives on what could be done. Saint Leo has such a highly populated campus and a very highly accredited reputation as well as backing from our surrounding community, I feel we should use this power to get our voices heard by the government so we can actually play a part in government debates about what is taking place now and days around the world.

Furthermore, following our contributions to our society outside of Saint Leo, I believe Saint Leo should be doing things on campus to build a better sense of community and integrity during such hard times. We need to have activities and outlets for students to participate in to create peace of mind and a strong community. We can start by educating students about what is actually taking place rather than letting the news pollute their minds. We can have groups that meet to discuss what's going on and create ways for people to speak what's on their minds. Being that Saint Leo has such a diverse community of students from many different countries, students need to be educated on how to handle the news and come together rather than build animosity towards specific races and religions. There are numerous ways Saint Leo can respond to what's going on; but regardless of what methods are used It's important that our young adults are contributing to worldly events and political issues, being that they are the future.

Sincerely,
Alison Colon

Dear Editor,

All around the world people are being affected by all the causes of terrorism and hatred. The destruction that occurred in Paris is very upsetting. On Facebook there was an image of missiles with writing on them that said "from Paris with love". I believe that all of our first thoughts are to get even, but we shouldn't fight hate with hate but to show love and justice to the right people. Even though I was not effected myself it still brings great sadness that we cannot all just love and talk things through. Lots of other countries are having major issues within their own borders, also countries like Kenya. Our school being so diverse we have a lot of students from all over places like the Bahamas where the population is 377,374 and just in 2015 they have had 132 murders which has increased since last year. The ways that I keep my mind off of all the terror in the news is by watching things that make me smile or laugh.

Sincerely,
Janai Harris

Dear Editor,

With the recent attacks on Paris, Lebanon and other parts of the world, the world is in fear of what can happen next. Many of us may not know how to react to such tragedies or how to help those that are in need, especially since we are so far away. It is difficult to sit and watch certain images from these events, there is no way we can avoid the situation. The only thing that we can do is accept what is going on in the world and try our best to come together and support those who are mourning. So far at Saint Leo I have not seen any response to these attacks going on around the world. No special services have been offered to reach out to those on our campus who may have been affected. The university serves students from 86 different countries, is there a reason on why the university has not made effort to reach out to the community? Students may be in fear of what may be happen in the United States, and some of us may not know how to handle this horrific news. Suffering and loss may affect our mental state, and with the semester coming to an end it is difficult to wrap around the idea that there are terrorist wanting to harm innocent human beings. All we can do is be there to those who need someone to talk to, and open up to those who are willing to listen.

Sincerely,
Carolina Franco

Dear Editor,

I am writing you because I am concerned about the well-being of my fellow peers as well as the professors and facility members of Saint Leo. The world and environment around us has become so horrific with terror attacks, I am afraid the United States might be another target for ISIS. As a student at Saint Leo, I believe we should have a support group to uplift and encourage our campus to know that we live in a safe as well as a happy environment. We should not be terrified of the crisis that's been happening around the world lately. Not only should we have a support group on campus, but also reach out to other schools and nations to comfort them to show that we care. Overall, nations have become paranoid about who's going to be targeted next and I believe it's time to take a stand and show that we aren't just sitting ducks!

Sincerely,
Jessica McKinney

Dear Editor,

Throughout the world there have been many tragic events. Most recently was the bombing that happened in Paris. A lot of people made the tragedy in Paris a racial issue. Other places such as Syria and Nigeria were also bombed killing hundreds of people. People made this a racial issue because these bombings were not shown on the media so people believed the media did not care about these other countries besides Paris. Instead of turning a serious topic like this into a racial issue, everyone should just come together and not only pray for Paris but pray for the entire world. At a time like this, people shouldn't be focused on who the media finds more important; we should support all the countries and do the best we can in order to make the situation somewhat better. In retaliation, France is now bombing Syria killing innocent people and that is not the answer to things. I understand why France feels the way they do, but bombing another country does not make the situation any better. People on social media believe instead of having a hashtag that says Pray for Paris there should be one that says pray for the World. I agree, Paris is not the only place that needs help, the entire world does. I think people should come together and donate whatever they can to the families overseas to help them as much as they can. They need support not another reason to start a war.

Sincerely,
Alyssa R Davis

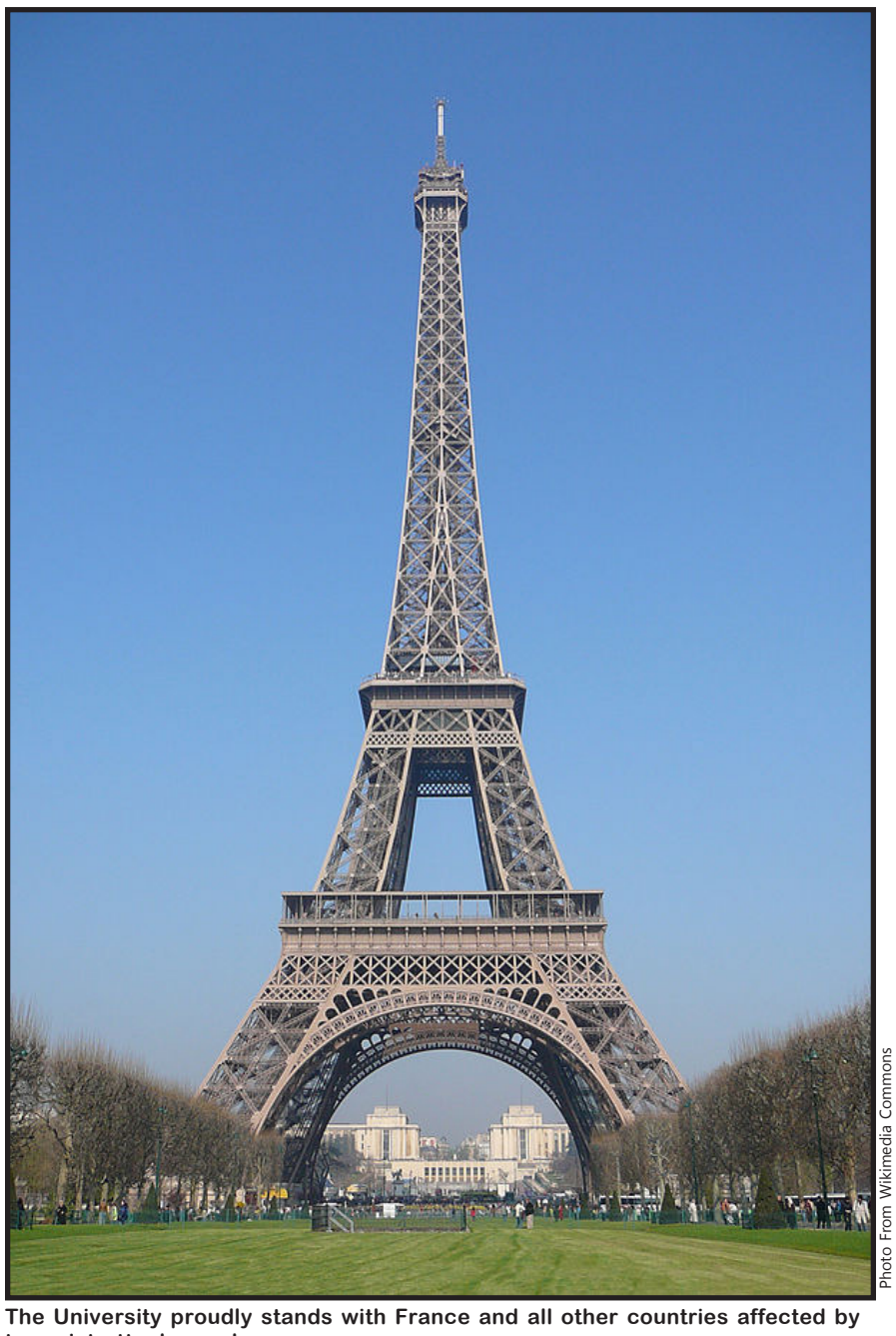

Photo From Wikimedia Commons

The University proudly stands with France and all other countries affected by terrorist attacks each year.

Arts & Entertainment

A Fitting End for the Girl on Fire

By Craig Graves
Worldly News Editor

The series that had started with a "girl on fire" has come to a fitting end. Released one year after the previous installment, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part II," directed by Francis Lawrence, is the final film of the "Hunger Games" series that was adapted from the books written by Suzanne Collins. This film, like the previous ones, follows Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) through her personal mission to end the tyrannical control of President Snow (Donald Sutherland).

The film picks up where Part I left off with Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) still undergoing treatment for the mental and emotional torture he endured during his imprisonment in the Capital. Alma Coin (Julianne Moore), the leader of the rebellious District 13, decides that the rebels need to storm the Capital to successfully overthrow Snow and free Panem. That is easier said than done as Snow and his loyalist Game Makers set up numerous traps and obstacles within the Capital, effectively creating the "Seventy-Sixth Hunger Games," as Finnick Odair (Sam Caflin) sarcastically remarks.

"Mockingjay – Part II," like the other "Hunger Games" movies, follows the events and descriptions from the books well. This is quite a feat considering that some things would naturally get cut, changed, or added to make a print to screen adaptation of a first-person perspective book make sense. Movie-goers who have read the books should not be too disappointed with how the events play out. For those who have not read the book, the ending might not be what they were hoping for.

The acting was well done, though the voices were sometimes too quiet or were mumbled, making it hard to understand what was being said at some points. In contrast, some of the sound effects were sometimes too loud, almost needlessly so. During these moments of quiet dialogue or erroneously loud explosions and winds, the plot of the scene got lost. However, while these moments might or might not have been purposeful, overall they added to the believability of the movie.

The background music was excellent, adding the right sense of emotion to the movie without attracting too much attention or detracting from what is occurring onscreen.

The set and special effects were phenomenal as well. In most cases in the film, the CGI was difficult to differentiate from the sets and props. The holographic televisions are a good example of the props and CGI meshing well together. The designs of these props had definite functionality in the film's setting.

As a whole, "Mockingjay – Part II" is a fantastic movie and nicely rounds out the "Hunger Games" series. The background music and the acting effectively invests audience in the characters or plot. There is also an overwhelming sense of spontaneity as the events seem to be unpredictable, even though the events of the movie follow the events of the book with minimal deviations. This movie is well worth the price of admission for anyone who has seen the previous movies or have read the books and has a good mix of drama and action to suit the tastes of many viewers.

Photo From Twitter @TheHungerGames

Finnick and Katniss had a rocky start to their friendship, but they bonded over their loss at the hands of the Capitol.

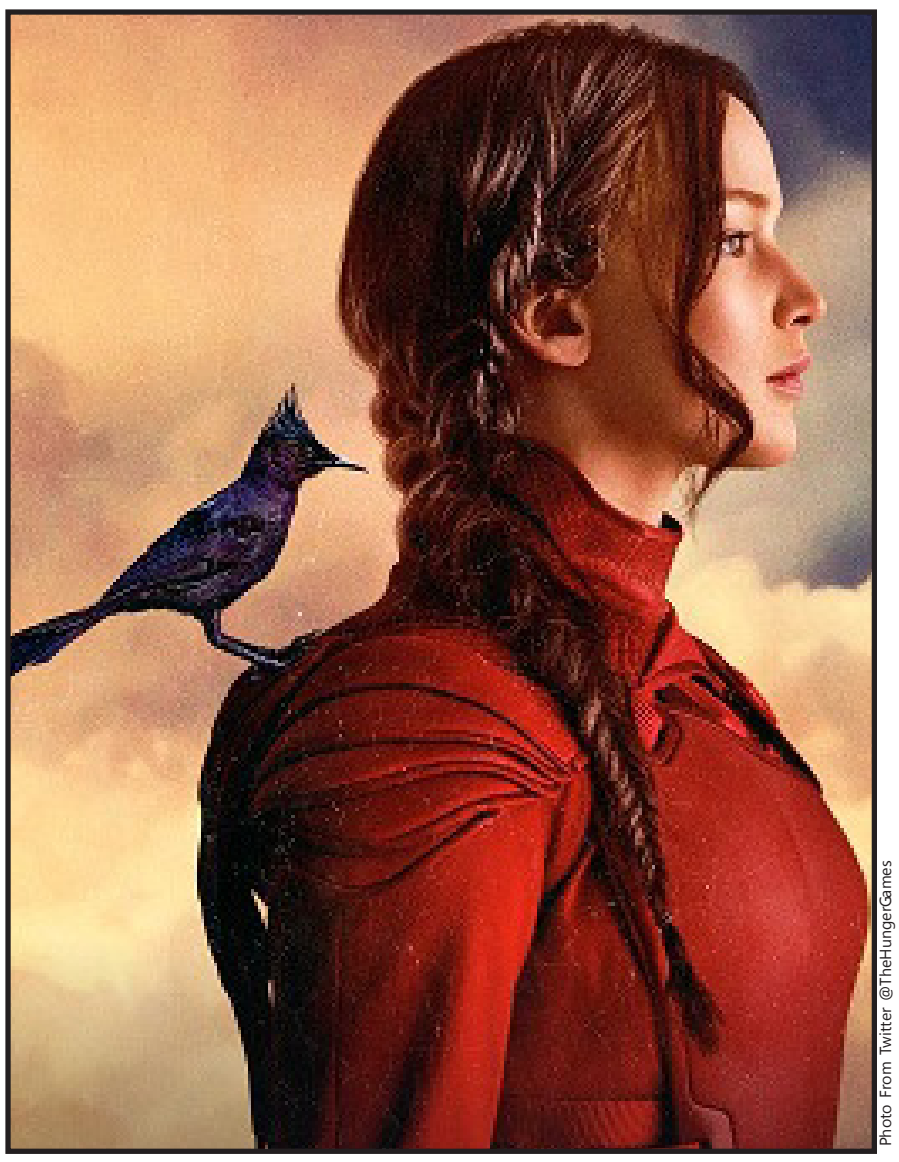

Photo From Twitter @TheHungerGames

Katniss Everdeen never thought she would come out of her first Hunger Games alive. Now she must survive her third.

Arts & Entertainment

Battlefield: Star Wars Edition

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

Attention, soldiers of the Rebel Alliance. The Empire is coming, so man your battle stations! On Nov. 17, 2015, "Star Wars: Battlefront" was released on PC, PS4, and XBOX One. The resulting game, a reboot of the "Battlefront" franchise now published by Electronic Arts and developed by DICE, does many things excellently, and yet there is something missing in almost each section.

Visually, this game is flawless. There is a visceral sensation in looking at this game. From the frozen fields of Hoth, to the dense forests on Endor, "Battlefront" provides a feeling of actually being inside the game. The environments are mildly interactive as well. Blaster shots will kick up some sand on Tatooine, and the rain on Endor will bead on the screen, just as it does to a car's windshield. The detail of the soldiers is marvelous as well. Blaster burns appear on armor, and the blasters themselves look as if they could be real, not computer generated.

Unfortunately, gameplay is very diverse, yet distressingly monotonous. Players can choose to play either offline or online. Offline features two game types: battles and survival. Battles are score based matches, where the objective is to kill as many enemies as possible and collect the tokens that fall from their bodies. The first player to 100 points is victorious.

Survival Mode is a wave based game in which a single rebel fighter must fight off 15 rounds of enemies to win. Both modes have punishing learning curves, where the easiest mode is manageable, but if the player ramps up the difficulty, it becomes nearly impossible without help. Help can be obtained by linking up with a friend and playing these modes as a co-op, which may be the most fun way to play "Battlefront."

Online Mode features nine game modes. These modes vary from capturing control points, to racking up the highest kill score. These modes offer different options, such as piloting Starfighters, to playing as one of the iconic characters from the "Star Wars" movies. It is quite thrilling being Darth Vader and throwing a lightsaber at an enemy, or running around as Luke Skywalker and using the force to push opponents away.

Fighter Squadron and Blast are both team deathmatches, involving 20 players, in 10 vs. 10 team battles. Supremacy, Droid Run and Drop Zone involve capturing different control points, or objects, and protecting them until the game is over. Cargo is a new take on capture the flag games, where competing teams fight to steal the enemy supplies, while also protecting their own. Walker Assault is a massive, 40 player competition where the Rebellion defends against the massive Imperial AT-AT Walker that is aiming to destroy their base. Heroes vs. Villains pits Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia against Darth Vader, Boba Fett and Emperor Palpetine in a fight to eliminate the opposing heroes. Finally, Hero Hunt is a free-for-all contest, where seven players attempt to take out one other player who is one of the six heroes.

Unfortunately, that is as much variety as there is. The modes feel as if there should have been so much more in them, and it is puzzling why DICE spread itself so thin. Had they cut the modes down to four game types, they could still have everything that is already in the game.

The Starfighter mode, for example, features a battle for air superiority. The Empire has two ships at its disposal, the TIE fighter and the TIE interceptor. The Rebellion counters with the X-wing and the A-wing fighters. This is a tragic lack of depth. There could, and likely should, have been so many more fighters at this game's disposal. TIE bombers and TIE defenders would add more to the Empire, and the lack of B-wings and Y-wings for the Rebellion are even more puzzling, especially since Y-wings make an appearance in the game.

Gameplay in each mode is fine, as it is a basic first person shooter. The ships are smooth to control, and everything flows, so there is nothing major that is problematic. The hardest part is the learning curve. Online play leaves beginners quickly overmatched, and unless they learn quickly, this can be discouraging.

This is a game that does not live up to the "Battlefront" title. Yes, the game is a very fun first person shooter. It is a technical marvel in terms of graphics. Smooth controls and good hit detection means that when a player is shot, there is no mistaking it.

That said, there is more to "Battlefront" than being a first person shooter. The original games were very open, with multiple strategies a player can use win. This "Battlefront" is very linear, and there are only so many times "kill them all" can be a fun way to play. That is the biggest disappointment of the game.

Had DICE and EA decided to name this game anything other than Battlefront, this review would probably be better. Unfortunately, this game, in trying to pay homage to the past, fails to hit the mark. This game gets 3.5 stars out of 5.

Photo From Twitter @EAStarWars

Each hero has unique abilities, allowing players to experience battles in a different way with every play through.

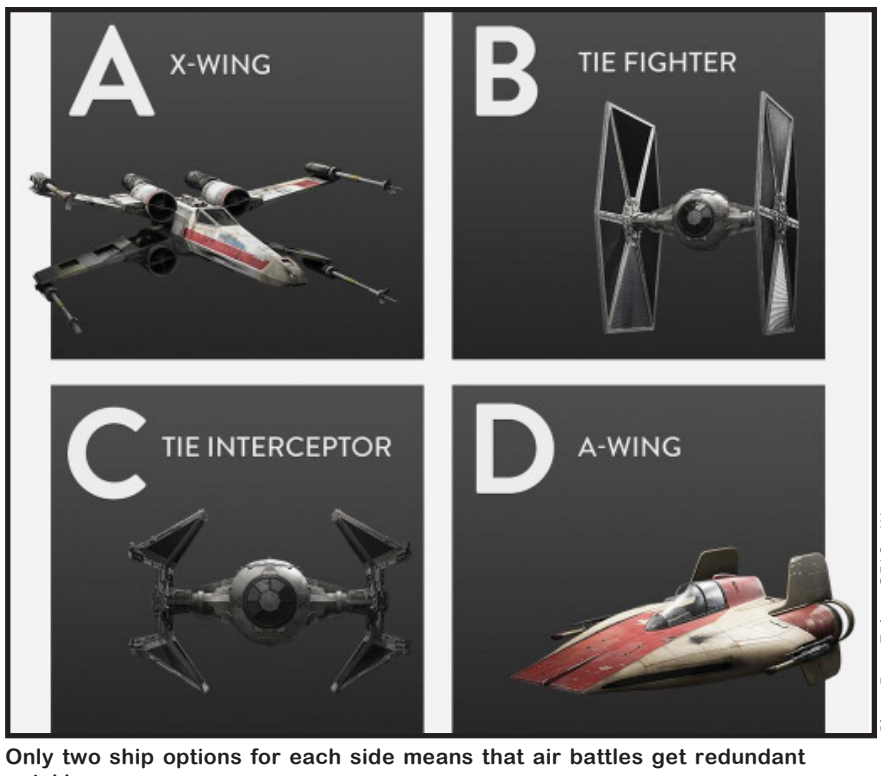

Photo From Twitter @EAStarWars

Only two ship options for each side means that air battles get redundant quickly.

The Lions' Pride Classifieds

To Elizabeth Panek

Hello to everyone who reads the paper. My name is Michael Henry Molloy, and I am here to ask the most magnificent woman to Winter Formal! The day will include early morning mass followed by lots of relaxing before the stress-filled, fun-induced night event. We can head down to the Docks to fish and study, relax in the LRC while we plot the downfall of the world and our "Zombie plan", amongst other things to which we will come up with together! The qualifications for being my date are as following: You must be my girlfriend Elizabeth Nicole Panek. That is the only requirement. If you are reading this please help pass on the news so that it may reach her! If all else fails I will have a copy of the paper ready and waiting, so please do not stress yourselves on my behalf. My last message is for her directly. Agape Eros my dear. Let us enjoy this event.

Arts & Entertainment

A Beautiful Apocalypse

By Jonah Robertson
Editor in Chief
Editorials

Role-playing games have been seeing a strong revival in recent years. With the success of games like "The Witcher 3" and "Skyrim," alongside numerous others, it has become clear that these massive gaming experiences are making a comeback. In keeping with this trend in gaming, "Fallout 4," which was released on Nov. 10, 2015, is a massive game. According to the game's developers, there is at least 600 hours of content, and that does not include multiple playthroughs, or any player-made modifications (which are sure to come). However, the question remains whether those 600 hours of gameplay are enjoyable, or if they are a tedious slog.

The answer, in short, is that "Fallout 4" is a really good game. However, to simply review the game in a single sentence would be to sell it short. It is not a perfect game, but it truly is one of the most enjoyable gaming experiences to be released in quite a while.

Of course, two of the most important elements of a role-playing game are the story and the world in which the player will be immersed. In this particular category, "Fallout 4" delivers in spades. For those who are not fans of the series, or who simply have not encountered it before, the "Fallout" games are post-apocalyptic roleplaying adventures. They take place in an alternate United States in which a nuclear war has desolated the world. Small groups of survivors attempt to rebuild society while fending off all sorts of irradiated mutants, or even other humans who have taken to raiding and pillaging.

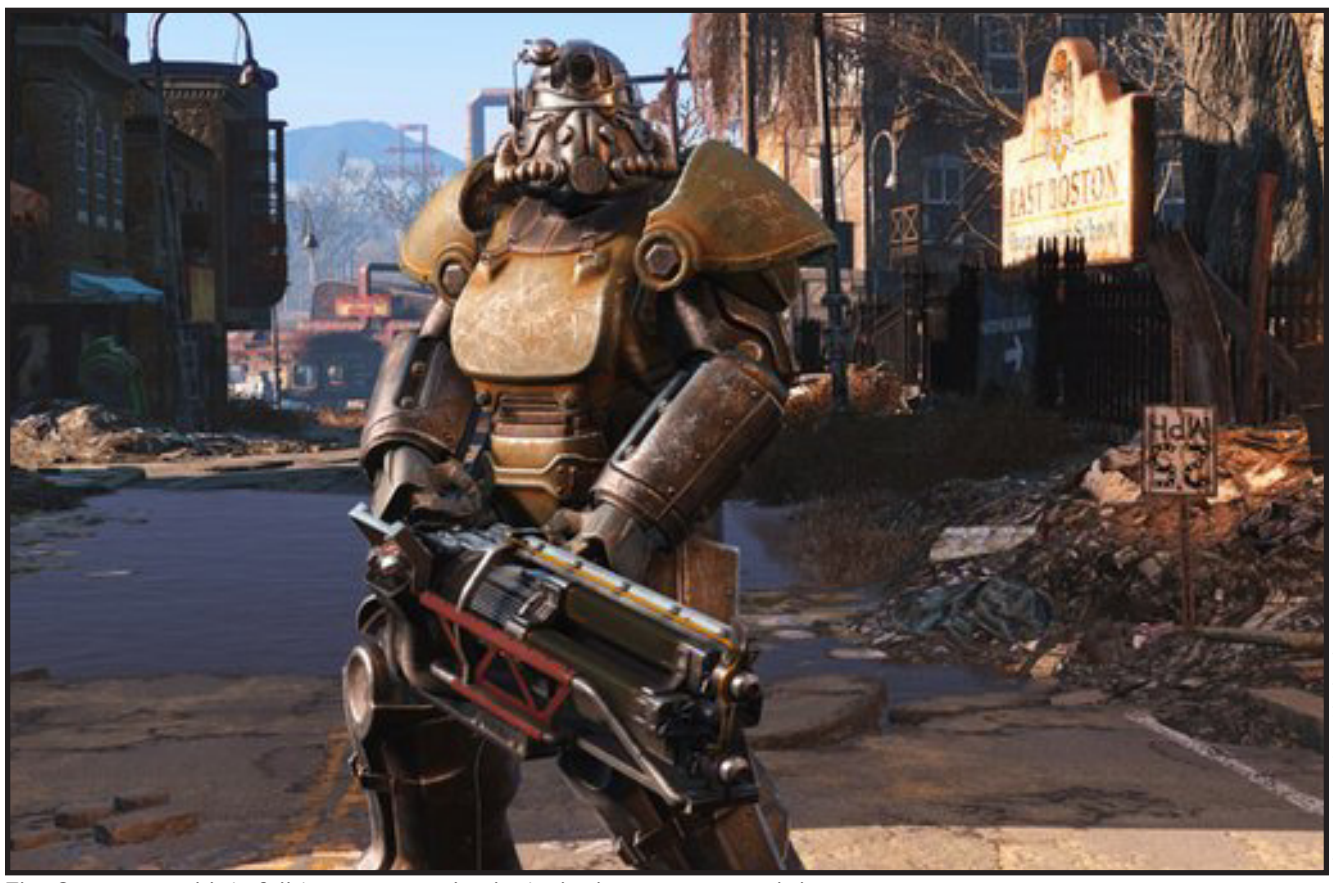

Photo From Twitter @bethesda

The Commonwealth is full is strange technological advancements and dangerous weapons.

Photo From Twitter @BethesdaStudios

Each companion that the player can recruit brings unique skills to the game, such as being able to pick difficult locks.

Photo From Twitter @bethesda

Even though the world of Fallout 4 is in shambles, it can still be beautiful.

Arts & Entertainment

Photo From Twitter @Fallout

The Fallout series has always had a wonderful sense of humor, keeping it light even though the world is incredibly bleak.

The world is grim and sometimes incredibly dangerous, but there is also plenty of beauty to be found if the player explores.

Some of this beauty comes from the game's unique setting. The world of "Fallout 4" is an apocalyptic one, but it contains many elements of American culture from the 1950's. The radio stations in the game play music from the 40's and 50's, and much of the decor and clothing is from that period as well. "Fallout 4" specifically takes place in the area outside of Boston, Massachusetts, which is referred to as The Commonwealth.

Many of the characters the player will encounter in the wasteland are unique, and have interesting personalities that make them far more engaging than some of the series' previous NPCs, which sometimes had all the personality of a cardboard box. From an awkward radio DJ, to a by-the-book but loyal soldier, to a private investigator who is more than meets the eye, there is a character in the game for everyone to love.

One of the absolute best elements to the game is the amount of companions the player can encounter in the wasteland. Each of these individuals has a unique personality, unique needs, and unique reactions to the player's choices throughout the world. Bringing one of them along will sometimes change the way situations in the world are handled, and they add a whole new layer of intrigue to the world. On top of that, they also contribute to combat, and make the wasteland just a little easier to survive.

The game's main plot line contains multiple twists and turns, but as with the other games in the series, the truly beautiful story is the one that the player creates along the way. There is an enormous amount of side quests for the player to enjoy, and while some of them are pretty basic, others are overflowing in personality. The world of "Fallout 4" is a desolate one, but that does not mean it is not an immensely enjoyable place to explore.

From a graphical standpoint, "Fallout 4" is beautiful. On PC, even the minimum graphics are attractive, and surpass the visuals of many recent games. On both the Xbox One and PS4, the visuals are solid, with minimal stuttering and generally solid framerates. The downside to these beautiful visuals, and one of the only downsides to the game itself, is that the graphical requirements to play it on PC are incredibly high. If people do not have dedicated gaming computers with powerful hardware, they are better off playing on a gaming console.

The gameplay of "Fallout 4" is by far the smoothest in the recent series. The shooting and action feel far superior to both "Fallout 3" and "Fallout: New Vegas." At its core, the game is a first-person shooter hybridized with a roleplaying game, though it can technically be played in third person as well. Many elements of the game have been streamlined, such as removing the need to repair weapons and armor, and while some fans are complaining that this removes some survival elements from the game, it also allows the player to enjoy a very immersive experience without the tedium of constantly fixing his/her gear.

The character customization in "Fallout 4" is by far the most complex in the series' history. Players can mold the character's face like clay, smoothing out various features until they are at the exact proportions desired. This allows players to make a much more personalized character than ever previously available.

The skill system from the previous games has also been removed and replaced by perks. Perks, or small upgrades to the character, which are gained by leveling up, have been present in the series since the beginning. "Fallout 4" uses them to much greater effect. Some of them are incredibly fun to play around with, such as one called Ricochet that causes enemy bullets to reflect off of the character and back at the foes who shot them.

"Fallout 4" has also introduced many new gameplay elements that were not present in previous games in the series. Weapons and armor can be modified and altered at certain workbenches, and while "Fallout: New Vegas" played with this concept, "Fallout 4" embraces it and makes it an incredibly interesting process. Almost every gun in the game can be modified to change its range, accuracy, damage, or even the types of bullets it shoots. This allows the player to customize his/her weapons in order to fit his/her unique playstyle.

Alongside this, the player can also capture areas in the wasteland and build new settlements on them. It is an incredibly enjoyable experience to turn a beat-up little gas station into a thriving wasteland community, full of shops, defenses, crops, and supplies for the player to use. These settlements are not just a place to take advantage of, however, they also add new elements to the game, such as the player having to defend them from raider and mutant attacks.

The game's developer, Bethesda, is rather infamous for having many bugs in their games, and unfortunately "Fallout 4" has not escaped that plague. While not many bugs were encountered while writing this review, some of the ones that were encountered were quite game-breaking. For example, the enemies in one particular location got stuck in a wall, and could not be fought, rendering one quest impossible to complete. However, these bugs appear to be few and far between, and should by no means convince a player not to purchase the game.

Though not a perfect game, "Fallout 4" is pretty close. The only flaws are in the system requirements for the game, and potentially some changes to the gameplay, though those are only flaws subjectively. It is a wonderful gaming experience that any fan of the series, or of RPGs in general, should most certainly not miss. This game gets a 4.5/5.

This review was based off of 40 hours of gameplay, and was made on a mid-range gaming PC.

Happy Holidays From The Lions' Pride Staff